

# Foster site on Superfund

(Continued from page 1)

ing its second appearance on Superfund list.

The designation of the former C&D site on the newly announced list was a formality, said the EPA spokeswoman, because the site had been placed on a proposed list back in 1985.

"More than anything else, it's a signal" to the former operators of the plant that cleanup work will

proceed, she remarked.

The spokeswoman said representatives of the EPA have been negotiating with the owners and users of the former C&D plant as to whether they will perform the study work concerning the massive cleanup project — and, at this time, it appears that they will.

"But we (the EPA) will be overseeing anything that they would be doing," the spokeswoman emphasized. "Whatever they do will be done under our direction."

She further explained that when the site was initially placed on the proposed Superfund list three years ago, the next procedural step was for the EPA to accept comments about the situation — from local officials and from anyone else who might be involved.

"After this is done, we then review all our information (about a particular site) and restudy it to see if our (original) findings are correct," the spokeswoman added.

According to Gavin, the EPA is going after parties that are potentially responsible for the contamination at each of the listed sites — and the identification of the responsible parties is a major part of the total cleanup effort.

"This sort of goes along with the congressman's amendment to the Superfund which became law last fall," said Gavin. "Kanjorski's amendment stated that EPA can offer rewards of as much as \$10,000 to citizens who provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of illegal dumpers. This means that neighborhood residents can take an active role in policing their environment."

"This is one of the key things involved in developing a remedial plan (at any of the Superfund sites), being able to identify the potential responsible parties."

The three Northeastern Pennsylvania sites are among 13 in the commonwealth which appear on the EPA's new Superfund cleanup list.

The Butler Mine Tunnel, an old anthracite tunnel, had been a dumping ground for hazardous waste and the EPA had it listed on its first "interim priorities" list in 1981. However, it was dropped from the list the following year because officials believed that necessary remedial action had been taken to correct its discharges into the Susquehanna River.

However, heavy rains from Hurricane Gloria in 1985 had flushed approximately 100,000 gallons of chemically contaminated waste oil out of the tunnel and into the river, causing the EPA to take a new look at the abandoned facility.

The Pocono Summit site is where illegally dumped drums of hazardous waste had been buried near the intersections of Interstate 380 and Route 940.

The 99 new hazardous waste sites have brought the number of dumps and other facilities on the "national priorities" list to 951, a fraction of the thousands of hazardous waste dumps located throughout the nation.

Thirty-two federal sites, most of them Defense Department designations, have been named by the EPA as among the nation's worst dumps containing hazardous and toxic substances.

The U.S. Army had 14 sites on the new EPA listing, while the U.S. Air Force had 10.

MUTUAL  
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE INC.

JULY 22 87

The Standard - Speaker  
HAZLETON, PA.  
AD-23 000

## C&D site on 'Superfund' cleanup list

From staff and wire reports

Cleanup of the former C&D Recycling plant in Foster Township now appears inevitable and all that seems to remain is ascertaining who will do the study work and who will perform the actual cleanup.

"The question is whether the responsible parties will do the work or whether we (the Environmental Protection Agency) will have it done," said a spokeswoman for the agency's public information office yesterday.

She was offering additional comment on an announcement by the EPA that the C&D site appears on its list of 99 hazardous waste dumps which have been added to the "Superfund" cleanup list.

The news was greeted with pleasure yesterday in the Washington, D.C., office of U.S. Rep. Paul E. Kanjorski, D-11th.

Jim Gavin, an administrative aide for the congressman, called it "a major, major step" in having the contaminated site cleaned up.

Gavin said the EPA's action appears to be "a final action" because it means that C&D is now listed on the agency's "priority sheet."

Gavin said Kanjorski had contacted the agency's regional director last December "to push for full disclosure of the data which the EPA had gathered concerning C&D."

He said the congressman requested a timetable for any future testing as well as information concerning a remedial cleanup plan for the affected area.

"The last word from the regional director to the congressman stated that it (the EPA) was planning to develop a complete remedial investigation at the site," he revealed.

Two other sites in Northeastern Pennsylvania which appeared on the EPA's latest Superfund list are the Route 940 drum dump at Pocono Summit and the Butler Mine Tunnel in Pittston, the latter

108928 ORIGINAL  
(Red)

Please see FOSTER

AR500170